



# inside

FIRST QUARTER, 2011

# BIBLE BASICS

INTERNATIONAL

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**Evan Drake**

## SYNERGY

**synergy** n. , pl. , -gies . *The interaction of two or more agents or forces so that their combined effect is greater than the sum of their individual effects.*

*“We therefore ought to receive such, that we may become fellow workers for the truth.”* **3 John 8**

Is being independent a good thing? When you raise children, you hope that one day, you won't have to still pay for them, bail them out of trouble, help them make everyday decisions, and settle their relationship conflicts. Did you know that in America in 2009, the average age that a child moved out of his parents' home was 27 years old? That's a scary prospect for every parent of teenagers.

Everybody wishes they could be independent of the constraints of things like time, work, fatigue, health, and age. Galatians 6:5 says, *“For each one shall bear his own load.”* It is a normal thing to carry your own weight. However, Galatians 6:2 says, *“Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.”* There are situations where we cannot or should not go it alone.

My family and I lived for 15 years in France. Because of those who cooperated with the Nazis during World War II, the word *“collaboration”* became a *“four-letter”* word to the French. Independence became synonymous with strength and power. Back in the 60's, Charles DeGaulle epitomized the desire to be free of all allegiance or dependence on anyone else. The French refer to this way of life as *“Gaullism.”* It goes back to Roman times where the Gauls stubbornly resisted the Romans' attempts to conquer and subdue the local peoples of the region of Gaul (now France).

I am afraid a lot of Christians have been led to believe that the greatest sign of power comes when we are able to say, *“We don't need anyone else to survive.”*

Maybe there is a difference between the word *“independent”* and the word *“autonomous.”* Independent conveys the idea of not needing or wanting the support or help of anyone else. Autonomous means that, although we can function without the constant input of an outside source, we can also cooperate with others in order to be even stronger.

The New Testament doesn't support the kind of independence that seems to be all too common today. It doesn't always describe how to discern which partners we should work with, but it assumes that everyone will have partners. God never intended for us to struggle forward all alone, especially not in these complicated and strategic days in which we live.

We don't need to keep reinventing the wheel when it already exists. We don't need to act like nobody else is doing what we are doing or working in the place where we are going to work. There are other groups who believe the same thing we do and have the same commitment to integrity and accountability in ministry. When possible and necessary, we should partner together in order to accomplish more for God's kingdom. **When people work together effectively, they get more done and usually do a better job.**

There is a great Greek word used in the New Testament, *"sunergeo."* It is a combination of two words, *"sun,"* ("*together*") and, *"ergeo"* ("*work*"). We get our English word, *"synergy,"* from it. Synergy describes the combining of two forces to increase the potential impact that each would have individually. The Bible says that we **partner** together in the gospel as Christians, as churches, even fellow-workers with God. (1 Cor. 3:9)

Some versions use the word *"partner"* to translate this word. You may prefer *"co-worker,"* *"fellow-worker,"* or even *"co-laborer,"* but the end result is **a combining of effort to accomplish more than what one person could do alone.** It is obvious that too many partners will water down our ability to be effective and hinder our ability to adjust and respond to specific needs. The wrong

partners can cause us to lose our identity, even weaken or frustrate us. Amos asked, *"Can two walk together, unless they are agreed?"* (Amos 3:3) It is always best to choose your partners wisely and to develop strategic partnerships with those who can bring to the table strengths that you or your organization may be lacking. In a fast-paced world, it is becoming harder and harder to survive, let alone be effective, without synergy - partnerships with those who can help you be more effective.

I was reflecting recently on the strengths of Bible Basics International as a mission organization. One of the things that kept coming back to me was how God had provided partners for us in every ministry that we have undertaken. When we entered **Honduras**, it was in partnership with the Bay Island Baptist Association of Roatán. Travis Mitten



*BBI president, Evan Drake, BBI/Missions India director, George & Susan Cherian, and BBI founder, Eugene Priddy*



*BBI Vice-President, Herman Meister, Dr. Glen Solomon, president of the Bay Island Baptist Churches of Honduras and BBI Spanish Director, Samuel Montoya*

recently arrived in Siguatepeque, Honduras, to train and mentor Honduran pastors throughout the country. He is working in partnership with the MEDA Seminary (Master's Academy) that is located there.

When God opened up an opportunity to do ministry in **India**, it was in partnership with Dr. George Cherian and his vision for Missions India. We have helped them, even though they have become much bigger than BBI with over 500 church planting missionaries, radio, cable TV, publications, schools, orphanages, homes for the elderly, etc.

We developed the **STAR Teams** short term evangelistic ministry. The very concept requires that we partner with local national churches to help them accomplish the work of evangelism in their community. We help them do what they may not have undertaken all by themselves.

When the earthquake hit **Haiti** last January, we did what we could to help, even though BBI didn't have a full-time presence in Haiti. We provided food, tents and tarps, as well as training for pastors and churches. Another mission helped organize the distribution and still another mission took care of shipping the supplies.

We were recently asked by another mission board, the Association of Baptists for World Evangelism (ABWE) to come alongside and help them in a new missionary outreach in **Togo, West Africa**, including an area which is predominately Muslim. ABWE is sending a church planting team, accompanied by medical and educational personnel in

done in their 80 year history. a strategic part of their radio. That's when they *That's your thing. Would you*

**We need your synergy, too.**

*one of the largest projects that they have They feel that radio evangelism should be outreach. However, they have never done turned to BBI and said, "We don't do radio. be willing to work beside us and build a radio ministry in West Africa that will allow us to accomplish our goals to reach West Africa with the gospel?"* We have agreed to come alongside our "co-workers" at ABWE with one of our strengths, radio ministry, so that the overall goal of reaching West Africa with the gospel can be accomplished. We call that *good ol' New Testament SYNERGY.* In reality, everybody needs a partner, especially when it can make you stronger and help you accomplish more effectively what you have been called by God to do.

The truth is, **we need your synergy, too.** Maybe you're asking yourself, "*What can I do to help a mission like Bible Basics International?"* We need you to partner with us by **praying** for our ministry more than ever before. We are surviving these hard economic times, but we need many more partners to **give** financially to our ministry so that we can expand into new areas. We need **new workers** – full-time, part-time, short-term, career, and volunteers that will increase our ability to serve and reach people. We can't go it alone. You are vital to what God is doing at Bible Basics International. Don't think that your contribution is insignificant. Synergy doesn't require there to be equal partners in order to succeed. When everybody pulls in the same direction, we all win for the glory of God.

**Will you pull with us?**



BBI president with ABWE Togo Northern Team Leader



*INSIDE*

ESTABLISHED IN 1973

# BIBLE BASICS

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*Dear Partners of Bible Basics International,*

My high school basketball coach used to say, "We're only as good as the weakest member of this team." He always seemed to be looking at me when he said it. The truth is, Bible Basics International is bigger than any one of us. In fact, because this is God's mission, it is actually bigger than all of us. We are attempting to accomplish a God-sized task. There are times we look at what God gives us to do and say, "This is impossible!" It is impossible for us; but possible with God. We don't just want to accomplish what men can do. We want to be part of something that only God can do. Isn't it amazing that God chooses to use ordinary people like you and me to accomplish extraordinary things. He does this so that the glory will be for Him and not for us.

**We've got some big challenges at BBI.** We are entering into some big projects in Africa and Haiti that will require a significant increase in funding to pay for them. We need more workers at *Radio HRGS* in Roatán, Honduras. We need a team of people for Togo, West Africa. We need several new people in our headquarters ministry. And, most of our people still need support to arrive at full monthly financial support.

**We can't do it alone.** You are more important to us than ever. The whole point of this newsletter is to say that by working together we can accomplish more than we can apart. Would you pray about **helping** us through a financial gift? Would you commit to **praying** the Lord of the Harvest to send laborers to help us in the harvest? Would you consider **joining** us short-term or long-term to help carry the load of ministry? We'd love to hear from you. We need you and many more like you on our team. Let us know what you can do. God bless you,



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## STAR TEAMS 2011

*Two opportunities on the beautiful Honduran island of:*

### Roatán

#### Medical Evangelism Team

**May 7-14, 2011**

**Cost - \$900.00**  
*plus airfare*

*(need some people to do evangelism and some with medical skills)*



#### STAR Evangelism Team

**July 16-24, 2011**

**Cost - \$1290.00**  
*plus airfare*

*(evangelism, children's work, school presentations, church meetings; any confirmed Christian with a willing heart and ready to work should apply)*

**Contact us:**  
**(813) 920-2264**

**StarTeams@biblebasics.org**

**BIBLE BASICS INTERNATIONAL**

• In the Greater Tampa Bay

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A higher purpose.*

Donor Name: - Please print and indicate Mr., Mrs., Rev., Dr., etc.

***Please use my tax-deductible contribution:***

- Where most needed in BBI's missionary work: \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_
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- Other Project: \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this slip with your gift to the Lord's work. See other side for explanation of above designations.

*You may prefer to give on-line at [www.biblebasics.org](http://www.biblebasics.org) OR by Credit Card at (813) 920-2264.*